Morning Glory

"The Coming of the Lord Draweth Nigh" — James 5:8

EXPERIENCED SALVATION • CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP • SIMPLICITY IN WORSHIP

Hauge Lutheran Innermission Federation • November 2021

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

Martin Luther

he devil hates music because he cannot stand gaiety," said Martin Luther. "Satan can smirk but he cannot laugh; he can sneer but he cannot sing."

Because he believed in the power of song, the great reformer spent much time compiling a hymnal suitable for congregational singing. As one writer has noted, Luther translated the Bible into German "so God might speak directly to them in His Word" and compiled a hymnal "so they might directly answer Him in their songs." Luther wrote thirty-seven hymns. "A Mighty Fortress" is the best known and best loved. It was written in 1529, a climactic year for Luther and his followers. Emperor Charles V seemed determined to suppress this new movement. When the Reichstag assembled in February at Speier, there was a majority vote to reestablish the former religious-economic system in all German principalities. A formal protest was entered by the Lutheran princes, earning the Lutheran movement the name of Protest-ant.

During these days of struggle, Luther found greater inner strength by meditating on Psalm Forty-Six especially the words: "God is our refuge and strength." Soon they inspired a song, beginning with the bold declaration: *Ein feste Burg ist unser Gott* -translated in 1852 by Frederick H. Hedge as: "A mighty fortress is our God." The majestic chorale may have been arranged by Luther from an old Gregorian melody.

This hymn became "the Marseillaise of the Reforma-

tion." People sang it in the streets. Martyrs chanted its strains as they awaited death. Its first line is proudly engraved on the base of Luther's monument at Wittenberg.

Although written in the sixteenth century, its message is contemporary. Man still needs a fortress, a hiding place. He still needs God!

Taken from *Hymns of Faith* – Northwestern College Radio Network, Published by Ideals Publishing, 1975.

A Mighty fortress is our God A bulwark never failing;

Our helper He amid the flood Of mortal ills prevailing.

For still our ancient foe Doth seek to work us woe;

His craft and power are great, And armed with cruel hate,

On earth is not his equal.

This great hymn of our faith needs to come alive afresh again within our hearts. If ever there was a time when the devil was roaming about to deceive, it is now. Our country and our world are in dire circumstances, and God is our ONLY refuge and Strength.

Morning Glory

Volume CIV – Number 8 November 2021

MORNING GLORY (ISSN0745-5968, USPS 887-740) is published in January, March, May, June, August, September, October, November and December, by the Hauge Lutheran Innermission Federation, 508 5th St. NE, Dilworth, MN 56529, and printed by Send-It Shipping & Mailing Center, 1026 West Alcott Ave., Fergus Falls, MN 56537. Periodicals postage paid at Fergus Falls, MN 56537.

POSTMASTER: Send Address Changes to: Morning Glory, c/o Send-It Shipping & Mailing Center, 1026 West Alcott Ave., Fergus Falls, MN 56537.

Editor: Pastor Rodney Stueland 508 5th St. NE, Dilworth, MN 56529

email: haugerep@gmail.com

Send Announcements, Contributions, and Subscription Renewals to:

Barbara Stueland, 508 5th St. NE, Dilworth, MN 56529

Internet Web Site: haugeinnermission.com. Facebook: Facebook.com/Haugeinnermission

Electronic version available – Send email to: morningglorymagazine@gmail.com

PUBLICATION OFFICE:

HAGA PUBLISHING, 808 Martha Lake Court, Shoreview, MN 55126-5856

OFFICERS OF THE FEDERATION

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Great Women

"Salmon begat Boaz; and Boaz begat Obed of Ruth; and Obed begat Jesse; and Jesse begat David the king." Matthew 1:5-6a.

Some of us, at times, wonder why did GOD go so in detail of 'family' genealogy especially in the Old Testament? But as we study God's Inspired Word, the BIBLE, we find definite proof for the Incarnation of JESUS!

To have women listed in the genealogy of Jesus in the Old Testament was highly unusual; and even more significant is two women in spite of their past. When forgiven by GOD; HE can use them as vessels for His honor and glory. Rahab is introduced as a harlot! Ruth was despised and thought of as a foreigner. It is significant to look back and be encouraged, although for some, the outward SINS cause a remaining scar the rest of their earthly journey. But probably during their own days, few would have confidence that GOD could still use them. BUT GOD'S Plan isn't always what we expect, as HE knows far better (Isaiah 55:8). GOD used these ladies to bring David to the throne, and eventually the **KING** of kings to the world.

Editor

The Love of Jesus

"This is My commandment, that you love one another, just as I have loved you."

(John 15:12)

This command from Jesus is for us to Love our neighbor just like Jesus has loved us. We know how much Jesus loved us because God demonstrated this to us through Jesus' death on the Cross for our sins. What does this command to Love really mean? Does it mean that we sit with smiles before everyone and give them hugs and affirmation even when they are involved in all manner of sin, rebellion and unbelief? We need only to look at how Jesus dealt with some people to see how we are to Love others like Jesus loved them.

Did Jesus love the Pharisees when He condemned them to hell? "Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you build the tombs of the prophets and adorn the monuments of the righteous, and say, 'If we had been living in the days of our fathers, we would not have been partners with them in shedding the blood of the prophets.' Consequently you bear witness against yourselves, that you are sons of those who murdered the prophets. Fill up then the measure of the guilt of your fathers. You serpents, you brood of vipers, how shall you escape the sentence of hell?" (Matthew 23:29-33)

Did Jesus love the Jews of His day when He told them they were children of the devil? "You are of your father the devil, and you want to do the desires of your father. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. Whenever he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own nature; for he is a liar, and the father of lies. But because I speak the truth, you do not believe Me." (John 8:44-45)

Did Jesus love the inhabitants of Chorazin, Bethsaida and Capernaum when He condemned these entire cities in the final judgment? "Woe to you, Chorazin! Woe to you, Bethsaida! For if the miracles had occurred in Tyre and Sidon which occurred in you, they would have repented long ago in sackcloth and ashes. Nevertheless I say to you, it shall be more tolerable for Tyre and Sidon in the day of judgment, than for you. And you, Capernaum, will not be exalted to heaven, will you? You shall descend to Hades; for if the miracles had occurred in Sodom which occurred in you, it would have remained to this day. Nevertheless I say to you that it shall be more tolerable for the land of Sodom in the day of judgment, than for you." (Matthew 11:21-24)

Did Jesus love the disciples and the parents of little children when He said, "But whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in Me to stumble, it is better for him that a heavy millstone be hung around his neck, and that he

be drowned in the depth of the sea?" (Matt. 18:6)

Did Jesus love the money changers in the Temple when He drove them out with a whip in His hand? "And He found in the temple those who were selling oxen and sheep and doves, and the moneychangers seated. And He made a scourge of cords, and drove them all out of the temple, with the sheep and the oxen; and He poured out the coins of the moneychangers, and overturned their tables; and to those who were selling the doves He said, 'Take these things away; stop making My Father's house a house of merchandise.' His disciples remembered that it was written, 'Zeal for Thy house will consume me.'" (John 2:14-17)

The answer is that Jesus did Love these people, but the Love of God in Jesus is not a Love that overlooks sin, but rather exposes it that the people involved in it might repent and have it forgiven. A Biblical definition of Love is recorded in I Cor. 13:6, "[Love] does not rejoice in unrighteousness, but rejoices with the truth."

True Love from God does not let people go on in their depravity, but rather seeks to deal with it so that the people don't go lost. True Love does not ignore the problems that lead men to ruin, anymore than you would see someone about to drive off a cliff to their death and stand and say nothing to warn them of their impending disaster.

Jesus loved these people, but He loved them enough to tell them their true condition before God to try and jolt them into the realization of their need for repentance and faith.

The Love of God does not mean that anyone can live in total sin and disobedience, and can then just come to Jesus without any repentance, and expect to find only love and acceptance and not rebuke. This is to not even understand the Love of God – Or the Love that we are to show to our neighbor.

People today say that God loves people unconditionally, that there is nothing they can do for God to love them more, and there is nothing they can do for God to love them less. They call this the unconditional Love of God. But this is NOT the Love that you see Jesus demonstrating to people. To think that you can live and believe any way you want and still have God's love and favor is to not understand the Love of Jesus. — JRH

Woe unto you who call evil good, and good evil...therefore, as the fire devours the stubble, and the flame consumes the chaff, so their root will be rottenness, and their blossom will ascend like dust; because they have rejected the law of the Lord of hosts, and despised the word of the Holy one of Israel. (Isa. 5:20,24)

The Bread of Life

"I am the Bread of Life" (John 6:48)

Bread is eaten all over the world, every country and every culture has bread of some kind. You walk into a grocery store and they will have an aisle 50 ft long with nothing but different kinds of bread. Different cultures have different distinctions in their bread. There is French bread, Italian bread, Irish soda bread, pita bread, flat bread, and a whole range of other types of bread such as banana bread, zucchini bread, raisin bread, cinnamon bread, and we could go on and on naming the different kinds of breads in the world.

Every living creature is a feeding creature. Every living thing has some kind of mechanism designed into it that enables it to feed itself. Everything from plant life and its root systems, to single cell amoebas, from insects to animals to man has the ability to feed itself. And bread is the one food that for many cultures, over many millennia epitomized the ability to survive and thrive.

Jesus in the prayer He taught the disciples taught them to pray. "Give us this day our daily bread." Daily bread for most of the world, for most of human history, survival hinged on the ability to have daily bread.

God is the provider of our daily bread. Jesus is the provider of the bread of life. Jesus says, I am the bread of life. The definite article is "The." The definite article in a sentence carries great meaning. The difference between *the* bread and *a* bread is great. Biden is the president of the United States. We don't have a *co-president*, he is not *a* president, there are not *many* presidents. There is only one: *The* president.

Jesus said I Am the Bread of Life. There is only one Bread of Life. There are not many. I am the bread of life. He who comes to me shall never hunger; he who believes in me will never thirst. There is a growing trend in liberal churches to embrace Universalism, that there are many ways, that more than likely in the end everyone will make it to heaven. They don't get that teaching from the teachings of Jesus.

Jesus says "I Am the bread of life." "The bread", there is no other. If you want the life that comes through eating this bread you need to come to Jesus.

Bread that is not eaten will not nourish the body. If you leave it in the bread box or refrigerator and don't eat it you will starve to death. Water in the glass will not refresh if you just look at it, you must drink it in order for it to refresh your thirst and hydrate your body. In the same way we need to come to Jesus and receive him. We come to Him in faith knowing he has what we need for eternal life.

Food and water needs to be taken into our mouth and swallowed before it will literally become part of our bodies. Jesus needs to be received by faith; he needs to assume the throne of our will. He is Lord and we need to acknowledge His rightful place as our Lord.

We need to chew our food, grind it up; this aids our digestive systems to make better use of the nutrients in the food. In the same way we need to think about Jesus, we need to meditate on Him and what the Scriptures tell us about Him. In this way we embrace Christ more and more as we discover his beauty and He becomes more and more precious to us.

We swallow our food and water and let it course through our digestive tract and it feeds and hydrates every cell in our body. In the same way Jesus and His living bread needs to flow though our body to transform us day by day into the likeness of Christ.

As we eat, our hunger and thirst is satisfied. As we feed on the living bread we find satisfaction in Jesus, He is everything we need for Spiritual food. We seek no other food than Jesus, In Christ we find all we need for this life and we find the forgiveness of sins that assures of heaven. We seek none other, because Jesus satisfies our souls completely.

Jesus said, "I am the bread of life. He who comes to me shall never hunger, and he who believes in Me shall never thirst." Have you come to Jesus? I trust that you have. Is Jesus the one that brings your spiritual hunger to an end? Are you satisfied in Him? Have you drunk deep from the wells of eternal life? This is more than head knowledge. This is more than saying yes to a few questions about believing in God. This is trust, this is dependence, this is a life lived in gratitude for what Jesus did for you on the cross.

Reflect upon your sin, for it was your sin that nailed Jesus to the cross. It was for your sin that he died. He took your punishment, so that you could have eternal life. God's word says the soul that sins will die. You are under the death Penalty, God's holiness and His justice demands it. But through the cross, God can dismiss your case for His justice was satisfied in the cross, and because of that God can be both loving and just at the same time.

Just as bread has been a food staple for 6,000 years and has caused mankind to flourish when it has been plentiful, so we will also flourish as Christians when we feed daily on the bread of life, Jesus. And we do that by reading scripture, by praying, by hearing the word preached, and by taking part in the means of grace that is communion.

The bread that I shall give is my flesh, which I shall give for the life of the world. Lord, give us this bread always! Amen

Mr. Wayne Almlie Des Moines, IA

Editorial

UNBELIEF & DISOBEDIENCE

"Do not fear, for I am with you; Do not anxiously look about you, for I am your God. I will strengthen you, surely I will help you, Surely I will uphold you with My righteous right hand." (Isaiah 41:10)

Fairly frequently you hear Christians say, "Well God is in control," and then relax in that comment!

Well, you will have a hard time convincing me that God wanted Adam and Eve to sin OR God wanted Cain to murder his brother Abel because of the sin of envy or jealousy!

There is a very clear distinction between God's foreknowledge and predestination! God sent His Only Begotten Son, the innocent for the guilty, to shed His Blood and die on Calvary. Yes, God knew what it would cost HIM even before the foundation of the world, but that is foreknowledge!

Mankind in his beauty soon fades as he is as a vapor or flower that soon fades away, as his life is really devoid of real dignity/meaning. But our Eternal GOD who created man in the first place; was/is willing to pay the price; thus, such a Blood-bought SACRIFICE is unique. To my understanding the word 'unique' means one and only of its kind. Man by himself, is tragically frail and transient. He is sinful and only God can perform that miracle.

Many neat, 'unique' things about God's Precious Promises, are noted in this passage and throughout Scripture!

When we fear something we, to a certain degree, think we are in control. But as you notice the very first words of this verse are Fear not. God tells us what to do; we need not fear for wherever Jesus (Holy Spirit) is, it is the safest way to go, it is when we 'fear' we are dangerously wandering from His leading like wandering sheep.

Now, please note three unique precious promises in this just one verse.

- 1. "I am with you", what better security can a person possess than having the ALMIGHTY God with you by the indwelling of the Holy Spirit to follow the plumb line of HIS WORD?
- 2. "I am your God" You know when we put anything before God, we are serving/obeying an idol. You are

not your own. As a Christian, you and I were bought with a price and we are the temple of the Holy Spirit. When you have within you the GOD of all gods; what better place of security can you have? "Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own? For you were bought at a price; therefore, glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's." (I Corinthians 6:19-20)

Lastly, He says what He will do. His promise is threefold, "I will strengthen you", "I will help you", "I will uphold you." Pay close attention to the word 'will' in this text and who is saying this! When we experience the fear of tomorrow, this is not a healthy true faith in our resources of God! Joshua 3:3-5 – All the Israelites had to do was follow the Ark of God in obedience to God's voice/Word in crossing the Jordan River. When we are entering the unknown, maybe FEAR grips us. Martin Luther speaks of fear in Luther's Small Catechism Explained as such: When do we fear God? 'We fear God when we think so highly of Him, that we are afraid of offending him by any wrongdoing.' "But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him." (Hebrews 11:6); as "There is no fear in love and "We love Him because He first loved us." (I John 4:18-19) God doesn't just observe our struggles, but goes with/in us by the Holy Spirit and His Word. He tells us in His Word not to rejoice in our circumstances, money, material things, culture/society/church, etc. God says what HE means and means what HE says! As HE never changes. For JESUS CHRIST IS THE SAME YESTERDAY, TODAY AND FOREVER!

"Beware lest anyone cheat you through philosophy and

empty deceit, according to the tradition of men, according to the basic principles of the world, and not according to Christ. For in Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily; and you are complete in Him, who is the head of all principality and power." (Colossians 2:8-10)

The Broad Wall

"And they fortified Jerusalem unto the broad wall." (Nehemiah 3:8)

CITIES well-fortified have broad walls, so had Jerusalem in her glory. The New Jerusalem must in like manner, be surrounded and preserved by a broad wall of nonconformity to the world, and separation from its customs and spirit. The tendency of these days is to break down the holy barrier, and make the distinction between the church and the world merely nominal. Professors are no longer strict and Puritanical, questionable literature is read on all hands, frivolous pastimes are currently indulged, and a general laxity threatens to deprive the Lord's peculiar people of those sacred singularities which separate them from sinners. It will be an ill day for the church and the world when the proposed amalgamation shall be complete, and the sons of God and the daughters of men shall be as one: then shall another deluge of wrath be ushered in. Beloved reader, be it your aim in heart, in word, in dress, in action to maintain the broad wall, remembering that the friendship of this world is enmity against God.

The broad wall afforded a pleasant place of Resort for the inhabitants of Jerusalem, from which they could command prospects of the surrounding country. This reminds us of the Lord's exceeding broad commandments, in which we walk at liberty in communion with Jesus, overlooking the scenes of earth, and looking out towards the glories of Heaven. Separated from the world, and denying ourselves all ungodliness and fleshly lusts, we are nevertheless not in prison, nor restricted within narrow bounds; nay, we walk at liberty, because we keep His precepts. Come, reader, this evening walk with God in His statutes. As friend met friend upon the city wall, so meet thou thy God in the way of holy prayer and meditation. The bulwarks of Salvation thou hast a right to traverse, for thou art a freeman of the royal burgh, a citizen of the metropolis of the universe.

> By Charles Spurgeon, from *Morning & Evening*, © 1991 Hendrickson Publishers, Inc.

Editor's Note: Just like athletes competing in their sport, If you abide by the boundaries/rule/*laws* of the Lord, you have a lot of <u>freedom!</u>

FORGIVEN

Not far from New York, in a cemetery lone.

Close guarding its grave, stands a simple headstone

And all the inscription is one word alone—

"Forgiven."

No sculptor's fine art hath embellished its form:

But constantly there, through the calm and the storm,

It beareth this world from a poor fallen worm –

"Forgiven"

It shows not the date of the silent one's birth,

Reveals not his frailties nor lies of him worth,

But speaks out the tale from his few feet of earth –

"Forgiven"

The death is unmentioned, the name is untold.

Beneath lies the body, corrupted and cold.

Above rests his spirit, at home in the fold –

"Forgiven."

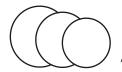
And when from the heavens the Lord shall descend.

This stranger shall rise and to Glory ascend.

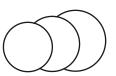
Well known and befriended, to sing without end –

"Forgiven."

Claude A. Ries



From Our Fellowship Circle



There must be some folk in reader land that have a fresh testimony of what JESUS is doing in their heart and life AND WANT TO HAVE IT PRINTED IN THE MORNING GLORY! We serve a Living SAVIOR

Be careful for nothing

Philippians 4:6

Do you cross rivers before you come to them, dread troubles that never come, expect evil from the Lord instead of good? In other words, is your soul full of unnecessary care? For that is what the word "careful" means—unnecessary care.

"Do not worry" is a plain and simple command, but it is such a difficult one to follow. M. D. Babcock has given a few beneficial suggestions for the person who feels defeated because of the common ailment (sin) of worry. "The anxious Christian hurts more than himself; he hurts the faith of those who know him and the good name of his Lord, who has promised to supply all his needs. There is nothing which we cannot pray about. Go deeper into the text; 'But in everything by prayer and supplication let your requests be made known unto God. What we can take to God we can trust to God. What we put our fidelity into, He will perfect by His faithfulness. While we work for the best; He works the best for us. We may succeed as we hoped; we may have discipline we little expected, but the Father knows what His child needs. What God has for us to do we can do, or to bear we can bear. Is there not enough in His ocean to fill our pitcher? With the need of every day will come His promised supply – 'My grace is sufficient for thee'.

Do not forget the words further on in the text: 'with thanksgiving.' Be on the lookout for mercies. Blessings brighten when we count them (Ed. Psalm 40). Out of the determination of the heart the eyes see. If you want to be gloomy, there's gloom enough to keep you glum; if you want to be glad, there's gleam enough to keep you glad. Better lose count in enumerating your blessings than lose your blessings in telling your troubles.

"Unbraid the verse into three cords and bind yourself to God with them in trustful, prayerful, thankful bonds, – Anxious for nothing. Prayer for everything, Thankful for anything – 'and the peace of God which passeth all understanding shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus'"

(from Thoughts for Everyday Living) Streams in the

Desert, Mrs. Charles Cowman Zondervan Publishing House © 1966.

Death in the Pot

"So, they poured out for the men to eat. And it came to pass, as they were eating of the pottage, that they cried out, and said, O thou man of God, there is death in the pot. And could not eat thereof." (II Kings 4:40)

The "sons of the prophets," studying under Elisha, became hungry, so Elisha told them to "see the portage," evidently a soup primarily made of lentils. However, one of the young students proceeded to gather some wild gourds and grind them into the pottage, carelessly assuming that their attractive appearance and taste would spice up the other dull meal. When the more mature students took the first sip, however, they realized the alien ingredient was poisonous, and cried out: "There is death in the pot!"

There is a parable in this experience. Modern Bible scholars often want to spice up the old truths of Scripture with some new and superficially attractive concoction from the outside world, but this almost always serves merely to adulterate "the sincere milk of the word" (I Peter 2:2) and insert "death in the pot." Like the woman in the New Testament parable who took leaven and secretly "hid (it) in three measures of meal, till the whole was leavened." (Matthew 13:33) Elisha's enterprising young student slipped in his attractive ingredient and it soon permeated the whole pot of soup with its poison. This is the way with false doctrine.

The remedy for the poison in the pottage was found when Elisha said, "Bring meal. And he cast it into the pot...And there was no harm in the pot." (II Kings 4:41). The purifying "meal" was fine wheat flour, always in Scripture symbolizing the true Word of God. It is the WORD which is the true bread by which man must live (Matthew 4:4), and the antidote for the poisonous doctrines of the world must always be the unadulterated WORD.

The Heavens Declare the Glory of God, © 1997 by Dr. Henry Morris

Editor's Note: As my wife and I read this article for part of our evening devotions; my mind reminded me of many years ago when I attended a fundamental Bible School (at that time) and the Teacher would forewarn us of false doctrine/teachings!

Believable...Yet Unbelievable

As U.S. Troops Pull Out, The Taliban Starts Killing Christians

After the international troop withdrawals, the Taliban are going door-to-door in Afghanistan executing, Christians on the spot...

Taliban militants are even pulling people off public transport and killing them on the spot if they're Christian.

Selected

Honduras Makes Its Abortion Ban Permanent: "All Human Beings Have a Right to Life"

The Honduras National Congress strengthened pro-life laws (the last week of December, 2020) by amending the national constitution to declare that unborn babies have the same rights as born human beings under the law...

They also passed legislation increasing the vote threshold to 75 percent for Congress to repeal unborn babies' constitutional right to life...

The South American country was spurred to action after Argentina legalized abortions in December. Law-makers said they wanted to create a "shield against abortion" in Honduras where most people support babies' right to life.

Lifenews.com

Record 4.3M Background Checks for Gun Sales with Biden in White House

Skyrocketing gun sales in January – marked by an all-time single-month record of 4.3 million background checks for firearms – were ushered in by the Inauguration of President Joe Biden and his pro-gun control administration.

In addition, more guns were sold last year than ever before.

"Overall 2020 saw the highest number of background checks on record with nearly 39.7 million,"

U.S. News report, Michael F. Haverluck, onenewsnow.com

EDITOR'S COMMENTS: The Second Amendment to the U. S. Constitution (which is one of our basic

rights as American citizens) says, "A well regulated Militia, being necessary to the security of a free state, the right of the people to keep and bear Arms, shall not be infringed." — Sword of the Lord.

Biblical "Royal" Purple Cloth Scraps from Era of Kings David, Solomon Found in Israel

Rare purple cloth scraps from the era dating back to the time of King David and King Solomon, approximately three thousand years ago, have been discovered in Israel.

Researchers in southern Israel found the remnants of woven wool fabric that had been dyed the color of royal purple while examining textiles from the Timna Valley, a copper production district of King Solomon's day...

In ancient times purple cloth was a luxury item and those who wore it were associated with nobility...and royalty. The dye used to make the color was sourced from a few kinds of mollusks in the Mediterranean Sea...

Naama Sukenik, the curator of organic finds at the Israel Antiquities Authority ...(said,) "This is the first piece of textile ever found from the time of David and Solomon that is dyed with the prestigious purple dye...

Brandon Showalter, christianpost.com

Court Rules Nativity Scenes Constitutional

When the Seventh Circuit Court of Appeals ruled (February, 2021) in favor of a nativity scene displayed annually outside the Jackson County Courthouse, it was the first time that a court ruled that the so-called "Lemon Test' does not apply to these holiday symbols. Liberty Counsel represented Jackson County in this precedent setting case, *Woodring v. Jackson County, Indiana*.

LIBERTY COUNSEL.

France Expands COVID – 19 Health Passport As Protests Against Lockdown, Vaccine Mandates Erupt Worldwide.

France's health passports went into effect.... just days after thousands took to the streets to protest a man-

date that only allows the vaccinated or those who've tested negative for COVID-19 to go to shopping centers, restaurants or board public transportation.

Emily Wood, christianpost.com

EDITOR'S COMMENTS: Dr. Fauci has already announced that such mandates will likely come to the USA as soon as the FDA gives approval to the vaccines.

Sword of the Lord

Will We Know Our Loved Ones in Heaven?

By Henry Morris

This is a frequent question, but it can be answered quite simply if we just realize that the future life is one of increased *knowledge* and <u>awareness</u>, not one of vague intangibles and dreamy unrealities.

Heaven will be a real place, and those who are saved will have real bodies — just as physical and tangible and recognizable as this present world and our present bodies. We shall certainly not know any less then than we do now, and there is thus no doubt that we shall recognize one another in the glorious age to come.

Our Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, was raised from the grave in a physical body – one that could be seen and recognized and touched (Luke 24:36-43). In this body, He ascended into Heaven, and in this body He will one day return to earth (Acts 1:9-11). He said, "I go to prepare a place for you" (John 14:2). He is preparing a place, not a state of mind or some vague sphere of spirit activity!

The Bible also says, "We know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is." (I John 3:2) Our bodies, like His, will be physical bodies, though also resurrected and made free from the limitations of our present bodies. He "shall change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto his glorious body." (Philippians 3:21)

The fulfillment of these promises will take place at the time of His second coming and the resurrection of the Christian dead.

"For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so, shall we ever be with the Lord." (1 Thessalonians 4:16-17)

<u>Until</u> Christ comes again, of course, the dead bodies of believers remain in the grave. <u>However</u>, their spirits (soul) are translated *immediately* at death into the presence of the Lord.

"For we know that if our earthly house of this tabernacle were dissolved, we have a building of God, an house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. We are confident, I say, and willing rather to be absent from the body, and to be present with the Lord." (II Corinthians 5:1 & 8)

Spirits (souls) and resurrected bodies of believers will be reunited when Christ comes again. However, the resurrection of the unsaved will be at the Last JUDGMENT (Revelation 20:12-15), and these will be consigned to ETERNAL existence in the <u>Lake of Fire</u>.

Obviously, before we can recognize our loved ones in Heaven, both we and they must actually be there! JESUS made it clear that the path that leads to life is narrow and "few there be that find it" (Matthew 7:14)

It is supremely important for each of us to turn from our natural (old nature) life of selfishness and unbelieving pride to trust in Jesus Christ as personal Savior ...the Son of God who 'tasted death for every man." (Hebrews 2:9) "He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him." (John 3:36)

Furthermore, each Christian should do all he can (by prayer, a godly life and faithful witnessing), to help his family and friends also come to put their trust in the Lord Jesus for their own Salvation.

Sword of the Lord.

VALUE

"See the value of a Grace-wrought confession of sin! It is to be prized above all price, for in every case where it is genuine, gracious confession, mercy freely given, not because the repentance and confession <u>deserves</u> mercy, but for *Christ's sake*. Blessed be GOD, there is always healing for the broken heart; the fountain is ever flowing to cleanse us from our sins. Truly, O Lord. Thou art a God "ready to pardon!" Therefore, will we acknowledge our iniquities." — Charles Spurgeon

"I acknowledged my sin to You, And my iniquity (sin) I have not hidden. I said, 'I will confess my transgressions to the LORD.' And You forgave the iniquity of my sin." Selah (Psalm 32:5)

The Enduring Word

"But the word of the Lord endureth for ever."
(I Peter 1:25)

The wreck of Flight 93 on September 11, 2001, left little behind. The burning jet fuel incinerated virtually everything. However, one of the items discovered was a fully intact copy of a well-used Bible. Complete with a prayer list – the possession of a dedicated Christian aboard the doomed aircraft. Almost everything else from that flight was destroyed or burned – nearly everything that is, except the Word of God! <u>Heaven and earth will pass away, but not GOD'S WORD</u>. It will last forever. Let's read it today, so that we can enjoy its truth throughout Eternity (Editor; Salvation is more than reading God's Word: it's repenting of sin and trusting Jesus as your personal SAVIOR)!

Mark Kolchin

The Bible stands though the hills may tumble, It will firmly stand when the earth shall crumble; I will plant my feet on its firm foundation, For the BIBLE stands. — Haldor Lillenas

* * * * * * * * * *

What's Worse Than Controversy?

Controversy in religion is a hateful thing! It is hard enough to fight the Devil, the world and the (old nature) flesh, without private differences in our own camp. But there is one thing that is even worse than controversy; and that is false doctrine tolerated; allowed and permitted without protest or molestation.

Away with such trifling! There are times when controversy is not only a duty but a benefit. It is a plain Scriptural duty to "earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints" (Jude 3).

The apostle Paul was the most divisive and controversial character portrayed in the entire Book of Acts; and because of it, he was beaten with rods, stoned and left for dead, chained and left in a dungeon, dragged before magistrates, barely escaped assassination. So pronounced in him were his convictions that it came to a point when the unbelieving Jews of Thessalonica declared, "These that have turned the world upside down are come hither also" Acts 17: 6. (Editor: Paul, with and through the Word of God, was trying to set the world 'right side up').

God pity those pastors and Christian leaders whose main objective is the growth of their organizations and whose main concern, lest their "BOATS BE ROCKED." They may escape involvement in controversy, but they will not escape the *judgment seat of Christ* (Editor: **OR** the Great White Judgment Seat of God; depending upon their relationship with God).

The Gospel Standard.

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The Battle is the Lord's

"And he said, 'Listen, all you of Judah and you inhabitants of Jerusalem, and you, King Jehoshaphat! Thus says the LORD to you; Do not be afraid nor dismayed because of this great multitude, for the battle is not yours, but God's." (II Chronicles 20:15)

How we need to support and encourage one another in these <u>perilous times</u> as the wind is howling from all directions and the waves are so high; as we are prone to close our eyes and hide our head in the sand! But that is not GOD'S answer or direction! Notice, in this one verse, for example, several things.

First, sit up and take notice, as we are admonished to listen and to take human reasoning captive to what GOD tells us. The Israelites are facing a confederacy of three nations and defeat seemed certain. This confederacy was distracted by fighting among themselves and Judah was left to be unharmed. There are times when we feel/sense that we face impossible situations and it appears that the enemy has the upper-hand. BUT NEVER FEAR, as in GOD'S LOVE there lies no fear. Our God is the God of the impossible! And He is well able to intervene in a mighty way for our deliverance. Sometimes in the midst of the battle/struggles we learn things that in no way could have been learned otherwise. HE permits things to happen in our lives because HE loves us!

Editor

Luther's Morning Prayer

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost. *Amen*.

I thank You, my Heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have kept me this night from all harm and danger; and I pray that You would keep me this day also from sin and every evil, that all my doings and life may please You.

For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the wicked foe may have no power over me. *Amen*.

He Leadeth Me

By V. Raymond Edman

Joshua had been thoroughly disciplined by Moses. For years Joshua had been the principal helper for that man of God, had been taught by him, and had seen God's guidance in his life. Then came the time when Joshua was left to his own responsibilities. Moses, to whom the Almighty had spoken face to face as a man speaks to his friend, was dead.

Not frequently the Lord makes provision for some trustworthy servant to be our teacher. The Scriptures show the pattern of discipleship: Moses and Joshua, Naomi and Ruth, Samuel and David, Elijah and Elisha, Paul and Timothy. Happy (blessed) indeed is the young heart that is counseled and corrected by an older believer. However, in time the younger must come to the place of leadership and must know the will of God for His people as well as himself.

(Never forget) the Bible is God's principal means of guidance, encouragement, strength and correction. Like Joshua we are to "meditate therein day and night" if we are to know the Lord's will for us. The Holy Spirit enlightens the Word to us as we read and meditate upon it. The Highest will never lead us contrary to the plain teaching of the Word. He will help us understand both the letter and the spirit of the Scriptures.

The Bible is not a kind of fetish or oracle into which we can glance for a word on guidance. The Lord may lead us by the first verse we read upon opening the Book, but not necessarily so at all. In fact, it is *common* experience of devout and deeply-taught Christians that to seek a verse of guidance is never to find it. Rather, it is as we read and meditate upon the Word, perhaps in some relatively obscure portion thereof, that we are taught by the Holy Spirit and are led aright in the light thereof.

We are taught three basic factors about the place of the Bible in revealing to us God's will. First, we are to read there. That means daily devotional reading in which we follow a plan of Bible study, not skipping haphazardly hither and yon. Second, we are to reflect upon what we read! We do well to memorize key passages on that they become a part of ourselves. Then we shall learn at some fork in the road that the <u>Holy Spirit</u> will bring to our remembrance a promise that we have memorized; and by it we are led into the right path. Third, we are to obey what we have read and understand, that is, we are to be <u>doers</u> of the Word as well as hearers thereof (James 1:22-25).

Then it is that the LORD makes our way to prosper and our work to have good success.

Taken from *He Leadeth Me*, Scripture Press Foundation © 1959

Separation

"All the days of his separation shall he eat nothing that is made of the vine tree, from the kernels even to the husk." (Numbers 6:4)

Nazarites had taken, among other vows, one which debarred them from the use of wine. In order that they might not violate the obligation, they were forbidden to drink the vinegar of wine or strong liquors, and to make the rule still more clear, they were not to touch the unfermented juice of grapes, nor even to eat the fruit either fresh or dried. In order, altogether, to secure the integrity of the vow, they were not even allowed anything that had to do with the vine; they were, in fact, to avoid the appearance of evil. Surely this is a lesson to the Lord's separated ones, teaching them to come away from sin in every form, to avoid not merely its grosser shapes, but even in spirit and similitude. Strict walking is much despised in these days, but rest assured, dear reader, it is both the safest and the happiest. He who yields a point or two to the world is in fearful peril; he who eats the grapes of Sodom will soon drink the wine of Gomorrah. A little crevice in the sea-bank in Holland lets in the sea, and the gap speedily swells till a province is drowned. Worldly conformity, in any degree, is a snare to the soul, and makes it more and more liable to presumptuous sins. Moreover, as the Nazarite who drank grape juice could not be quite sure whether it might not endure a degree of fermentation, and consequently could not be clear in heart that his vow was intact, so the yielding, temporizing Christian cannot wear a conscience void of offense, but must feel that inward monitor is in doubt of him. Things doubtful we need not doubt about; they are wrong to us. Things tempting, we must not dally with, but flee them with speed. Better be sneered at as a Puritan than be despised as a hypocrite. Careful walking may involve much self-denial, but it has pleasures of its own which are more than a sufficient recompense.

Taken from *Morning & Evening*, Charles Spurgeon, ©1991 Hendrickson Publishers, Inc.

Editor's Note: And to realize that this was written 150 years ago; so, if the 'shoe fits – put it on'! Now I know we differ a little doctrinally with Charles Spurgeon, but he believed in calling sin by name as God does! Oh, how we need to pray that GOD could bring about Pastors, etc., to teach/preach clearly God's Law out of love and the Good News of the Gospel.

What About Hell? – Part IV

"And I say to you, My friends, do not be afraid of those who kill the body, and after that have no more that they can do. But I will warn you whom to fear: fear the One who after He has killed has authority to cast into hell; yes, I tell you, fear Him!" (Luke 12:4-5)

This is the fourth in a series of messages on the denials of Hell by the modern church, some of their reasons behind them and a biblical response to each one.

False Ideas Present Today: Unbelievers are not cast bodily into hell

There is no physical resurrection for them. God allows them to remain in the grave, dead and buried.

This is false because whenever the Scriptures speak of resurrection, it always means the body. "But someone will say, 'How are the dead raised? And with what kind of body do they come?" (I Cor. 15:35) This is true regardless of someone who was saved or lost. Jesus said, "Do not marvel at this; for an hour is coming, in which all who are in the tombs shall hear His voice, and shall come forth; those who did the good deeds to a resurrection of life, those who committed the evil deeds to a resurrection of judgment." (John 5:28-29)

The final judgment describes all people as standing before the Great White Throne. "And I saw the dead, the great and the small, standing before the throne, and books were opened; and another book was opened, which is the book of life; and the dead were judged from the things which were written in the books, according to their deeds." (Rev. 20:12) The unbelievers will have a physical body as well.

Jesus also said that people would have their bodies cast into hell. "And if your right eye makes you stumble, tear it out, and throw it from you; for it is better for you that one of the parts of your body perish, than for your whole body to be thrown into hell." (Matthew 5:29)

The flames of hell described in the Bible are just a figure of speech

The agony described is that of knowing that they missed the great opportunity to be in the wonderful God's presence. Hell is not a torture chamber.

This is false because in Luke 16:23-24, the rich man described hell as a place of physical suffering. "And in Hades he lifted up his eyes, being in torment, and saw Abraham far away, and Lazarus in his bosom. And he cried out and said, 'Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus, that he may dip the tip of his finger in water and cool off my tongue; for I am in agony in

<u>this flame</u>. " Even when the rich man cried out for mercy and relief from the burning torment, he was refused. This is physical suffering.

In Matt. 25:41, hell is described as the place prepared for the devil and his angels. The final state of the false prophet and the antichrist are that they are "thrown alive (physically) into the lake of fire that burns with brimstone.." (Rev. 19:20) The devil ends up here and the final state of these are that they are "tormented day and night forever and ever." This is physical suffering.

The final judgment is depicted as the angels casting the wicked into a place of "weeping and gnashing of teeth." (Matt. 13:50) This is physical suffering.

God does not send anyone to hell

People go there because they choose to. They were offered the choice of heaven and hell and since they didn't choose heaven, they chose hell. They get there by their own choosing.

This is wrong because God has given the final judgment to the Son, Jesus. "For not even the Father judges anyone, but He has given all judgment to the Son." (John 5:22) It will be Jesus who will sit on the throne of final judgment as all people are gathered before Him. "And I saw a great white throne and Him who sat upon it, from whose presence earth and heaven fled away, and no place was found for them." (Rev. 20:11) This means that Jesus will send people to their eternal damnation. He will declare to the lost on that day, "Then He will also say to those on His left, 'Depart from Me, accursed ones, into the eternal fire which has been prepared for the devil and his angels." (Matt. 25:41) Every person who ends up in eternal perdition will be there because Jesus sends them there.

Jesus does so ONLY because the people had no faith in Him. "He who believes in the Son has eternal life; but he who does not obey the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him." (John 3:36) People don't get there because of the choice they made, but because of the choice they didn't make. As the Holy Spirit brings Christ to you and enables you to come to Christ, it is at that point when you need to respond to the gracious invitation which God lays out before you. To sit in unbelief is the basis for Jesus sending you to eternal perdition.

Dear reader, don't let this happen to you. Come to Christ while you have the opportunity, because one day the door will be shut and there will be no more chances. "And while they were going away to make the purchase, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went in with him to the wedding feast; and the door was shut. And later the other virgins also came, saying, 'Lord,

Lord, open up for us.' But He answered and said, 'Truly I say to you, I do not know you.'" (Matthew 25:10-12)

Pastor Jim Haga Hagapublishing.com

The Voice of the Master

"Let me hear thy voice." — Song ii. 10

This is the language of Jesus to his Church, to us. He loves to see us come to his throne. To hear us pour out our hearts before him. The prayer of the upright is his delight. It may be as mournful as the cooing of the dove, and there may be as much sameness in it too, but he loves to hear it. We are wearied "with telling the oft-repeated tale, we fancy that he will be so too, but no, he says, "Let me hear thy voice." Shall we refuse him? Rather, let us go to him more frequently. Let us confess our sins, mourn over our follies, lament our proneness to backslide, plead his precious promises, seek the enjoyment of his presence, beseech him to pardon our sins, and crave every blessing which he has to bestow. We cannot go to him too often. We cannot ask for too much at his hands. He asks us to pray. He exhorts us to come often to his throne. He sends troubles, trials, and afflictions to bring us near to him. In every comfort, he says, "Let me hear thy voice." In every trial, he says, "Call upon me, I will deliver thee." Beloved, go at once to Jesus, and let him hear thy voice, in obedience to his call, acknowledge his goodness, plead his promises, and seek his grace.

'Tis sweet to steal awhile away
From ev'ry cumbering care;
And spend the closing hours of day
In humble, grateful prayer.

The Believer's Daily Remembrancer, Rev, James Smith, Originally published circa 1850, © 2018, Sprinkle Publications

The Christian Life – In the Presence of the Lord

(Continued from the last issue of the Morning Glory)

In the fourth place, I would suggest the joy and the privilege which is ours to be in the presence of the Lord also when we are suffering. It is easier to suffer when we know that the eyes of the Lord are upon us while we endure our pains and sustain our losses, when we know that HE understands us in our suffering and can sympathize with us more tenderly than mother for her ailing child. Our greatest strength for enduring suffering we receive

when we look to the sufferings of our crucified Savior. Then our own suffering becomes insignificant. Our unwillingness to suffer becomes harder for us to bear than our suffering. But when we have confessed this sin also and received forgiveness for it, then HE creates within us that willing spirit which will thank God for whatever suffering we are called upon to endure. (Editor: Lord willing, likely next month (December) we will look at briefly the results.)

Taken from *The Christian Life* by O. Hallesby, Ph.D., Published by Augsburg Publishing House.

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By his own blood he entered in once into the holy place, having obtained eternal redemption for us. Hebrews 9:12.

How much more shall the blood of Christ ... purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God? Hebrews 9:14.

Hebrews records that the high priest of the Old Testament went <u>alone</u> once a year, *with blood*, into the Holiest <u>of all</u>. There was no other man alive, who could do this, but him. The Lord Jesus cried from the Cross, "My God, My God, why has thou forsaken me?" (Matthew 27:46). HE, who was ever with the Father, went <u>alone</u> to where no other Person could go. HE offered what no other person could offer – **HIMSELF.**

S.B.

The sinner's refuge here alone, under the <u>Blood</u>, under the Blood;

Here JESUS makes salvation known, under the PRECIOUS BLOOD.

E. Hewitt, Choice Gleanings 2014.

"If there is anything in my thoughts or style to commend, the credit is due to my parents for instilling in me an early love of the Scriptures. If we abide by the principles taught in the Bible, our country will go on prospering and to prosper; but if we in our prosperity neglect its instructions and authority, no man can tell how sudden a catastrophe may overwhelm us and bury all our glory in profound obscurity."

DANIEL WEBSTER

God's Determinate Counsel

"Herod, and Pontius Pilate, with the Gentiles, and the people of Israel, were gathered together, for to do whatsoever thy hand and thy counsel determined to be done." (Acts 4:27-28)

The early believer strongly believed in God's Sovereign power to bring about His plan of Salvation (also other matters). God's decrees are for eternity! (Ed. There is a clear distinction between pre-destination and humanity's free-choice). What was done to Christ by Herod or Pontius Pilate, by the Jews or Gentiles was according to the predetermined counsel of God. Yet the freedom of their wills was never infringed upon. <u>Truly amazing!</u> How can the finite comprehend the infinite?

Sid Halsband

Editors Note: What a good example of what is to come, and maybe sooner then we think!

<u>Today</u>, the world's society/culture and much of the religious people and church world are seeking to exterminate true Christianity through persecution. For an example of what is to come; read Revelation chapters 17 & 18 of the Harlot (religious but lost) and the world government (Anti-Christ) working together to Rid this world of true Christianity. Also, "Cultism" is rapidly growing in the USA today!

The Love of God

"For God so loved (Loves) the world (You and Me) ..." (John 3:16)

"His father saw him and had (love) compassion." (Luke 15:20)

The father in the parable of the younger son is a marvelous picture of the Triunes' Love for you and me and the world, as HE loves this person so much that in spite of the young man's ego trip and this person 'enjoying the pleasures of this sinful world,' the Father looks beyond that and graciously invites the son to come and he will graciously experience God's cleansing and forgiveness. (See Isaiah 1:18)

Thus, this person was not only forgiven, but placed in the family of God; as a friend of mine and an heir of the riches as joint heirs with Jesus!

So, it is of today He will not only forgive/pardon our many sins that are 'like scarlet,' but will also bring about a relationship in His household. When God so loved the world, it is an on-going LOVE; because of what His Son accomplished at CALVARY for you and me! Now if that isn't unconditional love, I don't know what love is!

Yes, He even loves you who are yet unsaved until you have one foot in the grave and the other foot on a banana peel; or even when 'both feet are in the grave'!

"Oh love of God how rich and pure, How measureless and strong, It shall forever more endure, The saints' and angels' song." F.M. Lehman

RES

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Sitting at the Gate

"They that sit in the gate speak against me; and I was the song of the drunkards." (Psalm 69:12)

Sitting at the gate was *somewhat* like today; the ruling parties or Supreme Court!

The son of a believer rejected/neglected Christ as his personal Savior and naturally against his parents teaching and example was causing a heart-ache to the grieving parents. The son became a notorious thief, and was imprisoned many times and also had a leg shot off when trying to escape one day. Living 100 miles from home, his father was mortified to hear some drunkards singing songs mocking him for the sins of his son. Our wonderful Savior endured the 'song of the drunkards' as He, the HOLY ONE, hung upon the Cross, bearing your sin and mine. The foolishness, reproach, shame, weeping, dishonor and loneliness, (Psalm 69:5, 7, 10, 19, 20), which rightfully has been ours was carried for us at CALVARY by JESUS! (Our sin was nailed to the Tree!) Let us set an example as an ear-mark of AGAPE LOVE in following HIM with Adoration and Worship.

He took my sins and my sorrows, He made them His very own;

He bore the burden to Calvary, and suffered and died alone. — C. Gabriel

Selected

"Right now, you may not be able to see how God is using your faithfulness to change lives eternally, but you can trust that He is at work."

Michael Youssef

Being Glad

"Zion heard, and was glad; and the daughters of Judah rejoiced because of Thy judgments, O Lord."

(Ps. 97:8)

Do you bring sunshine into your home? You can only make others happy if you are happy yourself.

One morning a family was seated at the table waiting for the oldest daughter to bring home the bread from the bakery. For days it had rained, and it was cold outside. It was cold in the house, too. Father was in a bad mood, and Mother was tired because the baby had fussed all night. John did not feel well, and was not kind to his sister Lena. That morning it was cloudy and cold indoors as well as outdoors.

Soon Elsie came rushing in. She had the bread from the bakery. Her face was rosy from the cold, and wreathed in smiles.

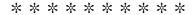
"I brought you the morning paper, Dad," she said as she handed him the paper. His face brightened. Then she planted a kiss on her mother's cheek, and the mother's tired face lit up with a smile.

"Good morning John," Elsie said to him, as he sat looking glum. He could not help but grin when he heard her cheery voice.

"And here is a whole sack of bread for Lena," she said laughingly. In five minutes, the whole room was filled with cheer because of Elsie's happy manner.

We will all be happy when we have the love of Jesus in our hearts, and each one will then bring joy and happiness to others.

Altar Steps by Pastor R.P. Haakonson



A Pure Life

"He that hath clean hands, and a pure heart; who hath not lifted up his soul unto vanity, nor sworn deceitfully." (Psalm 24:4)

Outward practical holiness is a very precious mark of grace. It is to be feared that many professors have perverted the doctrine of justification by faith in such a way as to treat good works with contempt; if so, they will receive everlasting contempt at the last great day. If our hands are not clean, let us wash them in Jesus' precious blood, and so let us lift up pure hands unto God. But "clean hands" will not suffice, unless they are connected with a "pure heart." True religion is hard work. We may wash the outside of

the cup and the platter as long as we please, but if the inward parts be filthy, we are filthy altogether in the sight of God, for our hearts are more truly ourselves than our hands are; the very life of our being lies in the inner nature, and hence the imperative need of purity within. The pure in heart shall see God, all others are blind bats.

The man who is born for heaven "hath not lifted up his soul unto vanity." All men have their joys, by which their souls are lifted up; the worldling lifts up his soul in carnal delights, which are mere empty vanities; but the saint loves more substantial things; like Jehoshaphat, he is lifted up in the ways of the Lord. He who is content with husks, will be reckoned with the swine. Does the world satisfy thee? Then thou hast thy reward and portion in this life; make much of it, for thou shalt know no other joy.

"Nor worn deceitfully." The saints are men of honour still. The Christian man's word is his only oath; but that is as good as twenty oaths of other men. False speaking will shut any man out of Heaven, for a liar shall not enter into God's house, whatever may be his professions or doings.

Reader, does the text before us condemn thee, or dost thou hope to ascend into the hill of the Lord?

MORNING & EVENING, Charles Spurgeon, © 1991 Hendrickson Pub. Inc.

Question: How do I pray for my unsaved friends and family members?

"Don't ever stop praying for your unbelieving friends and family. I have seen God answer those kinds of prayers again and again, even years after the person who was praying so intently went to be with the Lord. I can tell you that I am a believer today because my own mother prayed for me incessantly with tears, and I'm grateful she was alive to know that her prayers were answered.

I encourage you to pray very specifically for opportunities to witness to unsaved family and friends and for boldness to seize those opportunities when they arise. We should pray that they would have a life-changing encounter with Christ, that they would witness to others about Him, and that God would use them in a mighty way to draw even more people to Himself.

Persevere in prayer. If it takes years to soften their hearts, continue praying. You may not see God's answer during your lifetime, but that's not important. What is important is that God answers prayer."

Dr. Michael Youssef Ph.D.

UpDate

"I found it necessary to write to you exhorting you to contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all delivered to the saints." (Jude 3)

Greetings with the key cornerstone Bible verse of the Hauge Lutheran Innermission & Morning Glory – Jude 3. No doubt, the book of Jude is among the very shortest books in the Bible and yet packed full of biblical issues of today!

Locally, we continue to go through a semi-drought, and that is also true financially in this ministry! As I am writing this, I think of especially two occasions of expression of the gift of a 'living faith' – that of expectancy. Moses and the Israelites were experiencing a very serious need of water and the rock poured forth, and Elijah sending his servant to see if there was a cloud in the sky when it then poured rain from heaven! Just think of the eternally LOST; pleading for just one drop of Water!

Please read the entire book of Jude in one setting and especially noting verses 3, 7, 10, 12, 16, 17-18, & 20-25.

Would you seriously consider an extra amount with your financial donation this month of Thanksgiving?

Thank you for your response after you specifically have prayed, asking the Holy Spirit to lay on your heart what to donate for this month.

MAY OUR LIVING SAVIOR RICHLY BLESS YOU THAT YOU MAY BECOME AN EVEN GREATER BLESSING TO OTHERS!

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Thank you for your concern for us.

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Volume CIV • Number 8 • November 2021 (USPS 887-740) Dilworth, MN 56529

Luther's Evening Prayer

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost. *Amen*.

I thank you, my Heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that you have graciously kept me this day; and I pray that you would forgive me all my sins where I have done wrong, and graciously keep me this night.

For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the wicked foe have no power over me. *Amen*.